Wildlife Protection

361. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the conservation of rhinos in Assam and schemes for control of poaching are among the tasks to be taken up under the programmes for protecting wildlife; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) Government of India is giving a lot of importance to conservation of rhinos in Assam and control of paching. Two Centrally Sponsored Schemes are being implemented in this regard. These are :—

(i) Conservation of Rhinos in Assam 100 per cent funding by Central Government.

(ii) Control of Poaching and Illegal Trade in Wildlife 50 per cent funding by the Central Government.

The amount sanctioned against the above schemes to Assam during the Seventh Five Year Plan so far are Rs. 307.80 lakhs and 3.16 lakhs respectively.

Growing Competition Abroad in the Field of Ready-made Garments

362. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the growing competition abroad in the field of ready-made garments; and

(b) if so, the names of the countries competing with Indian exporters of ready-made garments ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Hong Kong, Korea, Taiwan, Bangladesh, Philippines, Singapore Thailand, China and Pakistan are the main countries competing with India in export of garments.

Kudal Commission Report

363. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Kudal Commission has submitted its report to Government;

(b) if so, when it is proposed to be laid before Parliament; and

(c) what are the main recommendations/observations made by the Commission ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) Kudal Commission has submitted six Interim Reports and a Final Report. First three Interim Reports alongwith Memoranda of Action Taken have already been placed on the Table of Lok Sabha. The remaining reports alongwith Memoranda of Action Taken will be laid on the Table of both the Houses shortly.

Writing off of Agricultural Loans Extended to Farmers by Several State Governments

364. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that several State Governments have written off agricultural loans extended to farmers during the last few years;

(b) if so, what is the amount of agricultural loans written off during the last two years;

(c) whether the Reserve Bank of India has evolved any guidelines for granting or denying permission for writing off of such loans; and

(d) if not, whether Government propose to evolve a uniform policy rationalising the practice of writing off of agricultural loans; if so, what steps have been taken in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent possible.

(c) and (d) The consistent stand of RBI and Central Government in this regard has been that generalised write off of farm loans, irrespective of the merits of each case, harm the agricultural credit system. NABARD has issued instructions that henceforth State Cooperative Banks and State Land Development Banks would get refinance from NABARD only if they comply with the conditions relating to interest rates, conversion of loans etc. by RBI/NABARD.

Seizure of Books titled as "Damming the Narmada"

365. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA :
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that five hundred copies of the book titled "Damming the Narmada, India's greatest planned disaster" by Claude Alvares and Ramseh Billorey have been held up by the Customs authorities at the Foreign Post Office; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for holding up the books by the Customs authorities and whether these books have since been released ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) A consignment of six parcels containing the book entitled 'DAMMING THE NARMADA' written by Claude Alvares and Ramesh Billorey jointly published by Third World Network, Malaysia imported by M/s. Natraj publishers of Dehradun, was detained by the Customs authorities at the Foreign Post Office, New Delhi as the Customs authorities felt that the import of the book would attract the provisions of Sub-Sections (t) and (v) of Section 11 of the Customs Act, 1962. It was proposed for consideration that a notification be issued banning the import of the book. After careful consideration of the proposal, the Government decided that no restriction need be placed on the import of the book and the books were accordingly released.

Performance of Sericulture Programme in Rajasthan

366. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the performance of sericulture programme in Rajasthan as compared to the natoinal standard:

(b) whether Rajasthan Government has submitted any proposal to extend the sericulture programme to more districts in the State involving higher Central allocation;

(c) if so what are the details thereof stating the estimated amount involved in extending the sericulture programme to more districts in Rajasthan; and

(d) whether the proposal has been approved by the Central Government, if so, the manner in which the programme is proposed to be financed by the Centre and by what time it is likely to materialise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) Sericulture in Rajasthan was introduced during 1981-82 and is gaining momentum. The present mulberry production in the State is nomi-